(b) The number of passports issued by the Passport Office in Bangalore during the last three years is as follows :

1994	1995	1996
77646	95672	105905

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Alleged Irregularities by Indian Missions Abroad

345. SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of lapses in the maintenance of accounts by Indian Missions abroad have come to the notice of Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to check misuse of funds by the Indian Missions abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d) Accounts are prepared in our Missions abroad in accordance with laid down rules and regulations and every care is taken to ensure their compliance. These are regularly sent to the Office of the Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of External Affairs, in the form of a cash account every month. Any discrepancy noticed is rectified in the accounts of the following months. These accounts are subject to post-audit in the office of Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of External Affairs and are also audited by Statutory Audit.

[Translation]

Construction and Expansion of Ports

346. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts made at Central level during the last three years for the construction of new ports and expansion of the existing ports;

(b) the names of such ports and works undertaken in Gujarat in this regard; and

(c) the role of Union Government in case the State Government fails to execute its duties and the efforts made by the Union Government during the last three years in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) During the last three years, no new port has been constructed by the Central Government. However, Ennore, a sattellite port of Chennai is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 593.90 crores. The capacity of existing Major Ports has been increased by 7.83 million tonnes during the last three years.

(b) and (c) In Gujarat, Kandla Port Trust is the only Major port developed by the Central Government. The major schemes taken up at Kandla Port during the last three years are—construction of 3rd Oil Jetty, 4th Oil Jetty. 7th General Cargo Berth, 8th Cargo Berth, 2 Nos. Virtual Jetties and a captive jetty by IFFCO. The responsibility for development of Minor Ports rests with the State Governments.

Construction of Bridge on Yamuna

347. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent so far for the construction of parallel bridge on Yamuna river near I.T.O. in Delhi;

(b) the date on which the construction work of this bridge had commenced and the date by which it is likely to be completed;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of this bridge;

(d) whether cost of the construction of this bridge has increased many-fold; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for early completion of this project ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : The Government of India is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country and all other roads are essentially the responsibility of concerned State Govts. Construction of parallel bridge across Yamuna river near I.T.O. in Delhi falls within the purview of the Govt. of N.C.T.D.

(a) Rs. 26.50 crores.

(b) Work commenced in December, 1992 and is targetted to be completed by June, 1997.

(c) Main reason for delay in completion were problems relating to removal of encroachments, site problems and technical difficulties encountered during execution and change in scope and design for accommodating water supply pipeline on the bridge.

(d) and (e) The sanctioned cost of the bridge project is Rs. 25.78 crore and likely cost of completion is about Rs. 40 crore. Progress is being closely monitored to ensure completion by the target date.

Visit of Sri Lanka by Foreign Minister

348. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRI A.C. JOS :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :